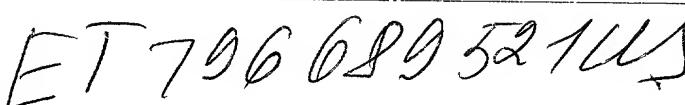


FORM PTO-1390 (Modified) (REV 10-95)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES		DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)		1978
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR		10/069645
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP 00/08224	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE AUGUST 23, 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED AUGUST 27, 1999		
TITLE OF INVENTION CLOSEABLE CONTAINER COMPRISING A PLASTIC COATING APPLIED BY INJECTION MOLDING AND METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION THEREOF				
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Martin SOMMER, Artur FABIAN, Manfred BORENS, Jochen HEINZ, Michael SPALLEK				
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). 7. <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210). 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 9. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 10. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)). 11. <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409). 12. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)). 				
Items 13 to 18 below concern document(s) or information included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 18. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail 19. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: 				
				

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 10/069645	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP 00/08224	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 1978
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20. The following fees are submitted.:

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :

<input type="checkbox"/> Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO	\$930.00
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)	\$720.00
<input type="checkbox"/> No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2))	\$790.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO	\$1,070.00
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4)	\$98.00

CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =

\$890.00

Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).

20 30

\$0.00

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total claims	19 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	x \$80.00	\$0.00

Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable).

\$0.00

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =

\$890.00

Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28) (check if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
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SUBTOTAL =

\$890.00

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)).	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30	\$0.00
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TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =

\$890.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
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TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =

\$890.00

Amount to be:	\$
refunded	

charged	\$
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A check in the amount of to cover the above fees is enclosed.

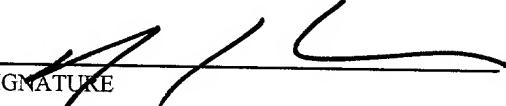
Please charge my Deposit Account No. 19-4675 in the amount of \$890.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4675 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

STRIKER, STRIKER & STENBY
103 EAST NECK ROAD
HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK 11743


SIGNATURE

MICHAEL J. STRIKER

NAME

27233

REGISTRATION NUMBER

FEBRUARY 20, 2002

DATE

10/069645

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 FEB 2002

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Group: Attorney Docket # 1978

Applicant(s) : SOMMER, M., ET AL

Serial No. :

Filed :

For : CLOSEABLE GLASS CONTAINER COMPRISING A PLASTIC COATING APPLIED BY INJECTION MOLDING AND METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION THEREOF

SIMULTANEOUS AMENDMENT

February 19, 2002

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIRS:

Simultaneously with filing of the above identified application
please amend the same as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel all claims without prejudice.

Substitute the claims attached hereto.

REMARKS:

This Amendment is submitted simultaneously with filing of the above identified application.

With the present Amendment applicant has amended the claims so as to eliminate their multiple dependency.

Consideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 27233

What is claimed is:

1. A closeable glass container comprising a plastic coating applied by injection molding,
wherein the plastic coating (4) comprises at least one reactively-vulcanizing plastic capable of being heat-softened and is applied in the process of injection molding using the reactive-injection molding technique.
2. The container according to Claim 1, developed as a small glass bottle that is fillable under pressure with a substance sprayable as an aerosol and a propellant, that comprises a tapered neck section having a sealing rim (2) designed in the shape of a bead integrally molded on the side where the opening is located for the mechanical attachment of a delivery element, by means of which the opening of the small glass bottle is closeable, and that is encased in the plastic coating in such a fashion that it also encases the sealing rim designed in the shape of a bead, or the previously-installed delivery element.
3. The container according to Claim 1 [or 2],
wherein a plurality of pressure-compensating openings preferably designed in the shape of holes is formed in the plastic coating applied by injection molding.
4. The container according to Claim 3,
wherein the pressure-compensating openings are formed in the sheathing of the container coating, preferably close to the base region.
5. The container according to Claim 4,
wherein four pressure-compensating openings, situated in opposing pairs, are formed.
6. The container according to [one of the Claims 1 through 5] Claim 1,
wherein the plastic coating comprises a reactive polyurethane system.

7. The container according to [one of the Claims 2 through 6] Claim 2, wherein the wall thickness of the small glass bottle is in the range of 0.7 mm to 1 mm, and its volume is in the range of 5 ml to 125 ml.

8. The container according to [one of the Claims 2 through 7] Claim 2, wherein the thickness of the plastic coating is in the range of 1 mm to 2 mm.

9. The container according to [one of the Claims 1 through 8] Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the coating is different across the height of the container.

10. The container according to [one of the Claims 1 through 9] Claim 1, wherein the plastic coating across the height of the container comprises different reactively-vulcanizing plastics.

11. The container according to [one of the Claims 1 through 10] Claim 1, wherein the plastic coating is fiber-reinforced, at least in sections.

12. The container according to [one of the Claims 1 through 11] Claim 1, wherein the plastic coating comprises different reactively-vulcanizing plastics across its cross-section, or it is applied in such a fashion that the integral density varies across the cross-section, having the denser, solid layer as the outer surface in each case.

13. The container according to [one of the Claims 1, 6, 9, or 10 through 12] Claim 1, wherein the container volume is in the range > 125 ml and \leq 500 ml.

14. The container according to [one of the Claims 1 through 13] Claim 1, wherein the base (3) of the container bulges outward.

15. A method for the production of the container according to Claim 2 [or one of the following claims], comprising the procedure steps:

- Production of the entire small glass bottle having base section, cylindrical jacket section, tapered neck section including sealing rim designed in the shape of a bead, according to conventional glass technology,
- Injection molding of the entire small bottle in a mold using at least one reactively-vulcanizing plastic capable of being heat-softened, using the reactive-injection molding system.

16. The method according to Claim 15,

wherein a polyurethane system is used as the reactively-vulcanizing plastic.

17. The method according to Claim 15 [or 16],

wherein different thermosetting resins are applied to different points and/or in different strengths in the mold during the injection-molding procedure.

18. The method according to [one of the Claims 15 through 17] Claim 15,

wherein the injection molding of the small bottle takes place in its unclosed state, including the sealing rim.

19. The method according to [one of the Claims 15 through 17] Claim 15,

wherein the injection molding of the small bottle takes place after a delivery element has been placed on the sealing rim, including at least the mounting part of the delivery element.

What is claimed is:

1. A closeable glass container comprising a plastic coating applied by injection molding, wherein the plastic coating (4) comprises at least one reactively-vulcanizing plastic capable of being heat-softened and is applied in the process of injection molding using the reactive-injection molding technique.
2. The container according to Claim 1, developed as a small glass bottle that is fillable under pressure with a substance sprayable as an aerosol and a propellant, that comprises a tapered neck section having a sealing rim (2) designed in the shape of a bead integrally molded on the side where the opening is located for the mechanical attachment of a delivery element, by means of which the opening of the small glass bottle is closeable, and that is encased in the plastic coating in such a fashion that it also encases the sealing rim designed in the shape of a bead, or the previously-installed delivery element.
3. The container according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of pressure-compensating openings preferably designed in the shape of holes is formed in the plastic coating applied by injection molding.
4. The container according to Claim 3, wherein the pressure-compensating openings are formed in the sheathing of the container coating, preferably close to the base region.
5. The container according to Claim 4, wherein four pressure-compensating openings, situated in opposing pairs, are formed.
6. The container according to Claim 1, wherein the plastic coating comprises a reactive polyurethane system.

7. The container according to Claim 2,
wherein the wall thickness of the small glass bottle is in the range of 0.7 mm to 1 mm, and its volume is in the range of 5 ml to 125 ml.

8. The container according to Claim 2,
wherein the thickness of the plastic coating is in the range of 1 mm to 2 mm.

9. The container according to Claim 1,
wherein the thickness of the coating is different across the height of the container.

10. The container according to Claim 1,
wherein the plastic coating across the height of the container comprises different reactively-vulcanizing plastics.

11. The container according to Claim 1,
wherein the plastic coating is fiber-reinforced, at least in sections.

12. The container according to Claim 1,
wherein the plastic coating comprises different reactively-vulcanizing plastics across its cross-section, or it is applied in such a fashion that the integral density varies across the cross-section, having the denser, solid layer as the outer surface in each case.

13. The container according to Claim 1, wherein the container volume is in the range > 125 ml and ≤ 500 ml.

14. The container according to Claim 1,
wherein the base (3) of the container bulges outward.

15. A method for the production of the container according to Claim 2, comprising the procedure steps:

- Production of the entire small glass bottle having base section, cylindrical jacket section, tapered neck section including sealing rim designed in the shape of a bead, according to conventional glass technology,
- Injection molding of the entire small bottle in a mold using at least one reactively-vulcanizing plastic capable of being heat-softened, using the reactive-injection molding system.

16. The method according to Claim 15,
wherein a polyurethane system is used as the reactively-vulcanizing plastic.

17. The method according to Claim 15,
wherein different thermosetting resins are applied to different points and/or in
different strengths in the mold during the injection-molding procedure.

18. The method according to Claim 15,
wherein the injection molding of the small bottle takes place in its unclosed state,
including the sealing rim.

19. The method according to Claim 15,
wherein the injection molding of the small bottle takes place after a delivery
element has been placed on the sealing rim, including at least the mounting part
of the delivery element.

1 CLOSEABLE GLASS CONTAINER COMPRISING A PLASTIC COATING
2 APPLIED BY INJECTION MOLDING AND METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION
3 THEREOF

7 The invention is based on a closeable glass container comprising a plastic
8 coating applied by injection molding according to the features of the preamble of
9 Claim 1.

10
11 The invention is further based on a method for the production of the container
12 comprising a coating applied by injection molding.

14 Glass containers of this type comprising a coating applied by injection molding
15 are used for medical purposes in particular, but they are also used for cosmetic
16 purposes or to store food and beverages. The purpose of these plastic coatings,
17 for example, is to hold glass splinters together if the coated glass container
18 breaks. The plastic coating therefore also serves to provide protection against
19 bursting and/or shattering.

21 Glass containers of various species comprising a plastic coating applied in
22 different fashions using the most diverse types of plastics have been made
23 known in numerous publications.

24
25 In DE-OS 24 31 952 it was made known to coat glass bottles with a plastic that
26 comprises a thermosetting resin that is softened before use, either by means of
27 internal plasticizers, i.e., by means of substances that react during production of
28 the thermosetting plastic and thereby become part of the resin, or by means of
29 external plasticizers that are added to the finished resin in suitable fashion. The
30 softened, thermosetting resin is available as coating powder, is ground to a

1 specified particle size, and then applied electrostatically to the bottles. The
2 application of the powder can also take place by means of immersion in a
3 fluidized bed or in an electrostatic fluidized bed. The applied layer is then cured,
4 preferably in an infrared oven. In this known case, the coating of the bottles
5 therefore takes place using the method of powder coating on a thermosetting
6 basis that does not allow for an exact contour of the bottle comprising a coating
7 applied by injection molding, as required, for example, to shape the base section
8 with regard for the stability of the glass bottle, and which is also relatively costly.
9

10 Furthermore, the softened thermosetting resin cannot be applied to the glass
11 bottles using the technique of injection molding, because this technique requires
12 that a plastic molding compound be available that can be softened under the
13 influence of heat, so that it can then be pressed into the molding die. By
14 definition, thermosetting plastics are not capable of being heat-softened,
15 however.

16
17 To the extent that glass containers have been put into concrete terms in the
18 publications about the related art, containers such as beer bottles, mineral water
19 bottles, cosmetic containers and the like are typically named. Additionally, the
20 principle of coating glass containers by injection molding is also used with a
21 special species of containers, namely closeable medical containers subject to a
22 relatively high pressure, especially pressure containers than can be filled under
23 pressure with medically effective substances and a propellant, and the opening
24 of which is closeable using a delivery element, in particular a metering valve. In
25 conjunction with a dispensing head that interacts with the delivery element in
26 such a fashion that the delivery element is actuated when both parts are pressed
27 together and a certain quantity of the medically effective substance is released
28 through a spray opening as aerosol, these products serve as applicators for
29 medical applications, in particular for patients with asthma or other
30 bronchopathies.

1 The use of pressure containers made of metallic materials for such applicators is
2 known. The protection against bursting and/or shattering in pressure containers
3 of this type is achieved by means of the properties of the selected material that
4 are advantageous in this regard (high toughness, high strength).

5

6 A disadvantage of these pressure containers, however, is that the non-
7 transparent pressure container makes it impossible to visually determine how
8 much of the substance to be released remains inside. This is a particular
9 disadvantage when it comes to dispensing inhalants that often have the
10 character of an emergency remedy (e.g., asthma preparations). Without a visual
11 check, the risk exists that the pressure container could be empty when an
12 emergency arises.

13

14 Additionally, a pressure container in the form of small glass bottles was made
15 known in DE-AS 11 08 383. The capacity of the small bottle can be 5 to 50 ml.
16 The release opening is located on the top end of the bottle. This is usually closed
17 by inserting the delivery element, e.g., a metering valve having a usually
18 cylindrical cannula projecting upward, into the pressure container or crimping it
19 on the pressure container, often using an elastic seal between head and
20 metering valve. The pressure container is thereby subjected to a relatively high
21 internal pressure.

22

23 The known pressure container made of glass is covered with a coating of a
24 transparent plastic that is sprayed on or applied via immersion, with the
25 exception of the rim, to which the metering valve is crimped. This coating
26 comprises a flexible soft plastic, e.g., PVC, having high expansion. The high
27 expansion is important, because, if the glass container bursts, the high internal
28 pressure acts on the soft plastic. If the soft plastic would not be able to [words
29 missing] by means of a deformation of the coating, e.g., by means of [words

1 *missing], a sudden destruction of the soft plastic resulting from chemical attack*
2 *would be expected.*

3

4 Since the pressure container is comprised of a transparent material (glass) and
5 the plastic sheathing is transparent, this known pressure container has the
6 advantage that it makes it possible to visually determine how much of the
7 substance to be released remains inside.

8

9 A disadvantage of the known pressure container, however, is the fact that the
10 transparent pressure container made of glass—despite its plastic coating—is not
11 safe enough in case of explosion, e.g., caused by improper handling, because a
12 coating is not applied in the region of the metering valve, or because, generally
13 speaking, if bursting occurs, the plastic sheathing can expand and burst like a
14 balloon, which causes parts of the glass container to spray rapidly into the
15 surroundings, including the metering valve in particular, which can come loose
16 from the rim to which it was crimped.

17

18 Within the framework of the production of the final pressure container, the plastic
19 layer that provides protection against bursting and shattering is applied directly to
20 the glass pressure container in the simplest fashion possible—i.e., not by means
21 of immersion or spraying—by coating this with an extruded plastic in a molding
22 die. A concept of this type was made known in FR 2 631 581 B1. This publication
23 describes a small glass bottle having a tapered neck section that can be filled
24 under pressure with a substance sprayable as aerosol and a propellant, the
25 opening of which is closeable using a delivery element, and that comprises a
26 plastic coating applied by injection molding.

27

28 In the known case, the glass pressure container comprises a small bottle having
29 a cylindrical neck section, and the molding die is designed so that a plastic
30 coating is also applied by injection molding to the neck section flush with the

1 opening of the small bottle. When the neck section of the small glass bottle is
2 designed in this fashion, however, attachment of the delivery element—the
3 metering valve—is not without problems. Furthermore, the plastic coating coats
4 the small glass bottle completely. If bursting occurs, the coating can partly
5 expand and burst and therefore lose its property of providing protection against
6 bursting and shattering. The aforementioned publication furthermore makes no
7 statement about the type of plastic material; it is therefore not considered to be
8 essential in terms of function.

9

10 A further example of the aforementioned concept was made known in DE 196 32
11 664 A1. It discloses a small glass bottle having a tapered neck section that is
12 fillable under pressure with a substance sprayable as aerosol and a propellant,
13 the opening of which is closeable using a delivery element, that comprises a
14 plastic coating applied by injection molding, and that is designed so that a secure
15 attachment of the delivery element and a reduction of the wall thickness of the
16 small glass bottle is possible and, on the other hand, the protection against
17 bursting and shattering is increased considerably compared to the container
18 made known in the FR publication. This known small bottle also comprises the
19 following features:

20

- 21 - the neck section comprises a sealing rim designed in the shape of a bead
22 on the side where the opening is located for the mechanical attachment of
23 the delivery element, which also comprises a plastic coating applied by
24 injection molding,
- 25 - a plurality of pressure-compensating openings designed in the shape of
26 holes is formed in the plastic coating of the glass body applied by injection
27 molding,
- 28 - the coating is composed of an elastic plastic material having distinct
29 shrinkage, and it is shrunk on the small glass bottle.

30

1 Due to the sealing rim designed in the shape of a bead, a secure and permanent
2 mechanical attachment of the delivery element is possible. Since the plastic
3 coating also covers the glass sealing rim, the delivery element is still held
4 mechanically even if the glass body bursts, which increases the protection
5 against bursting. The pressure-compensating openings prevent the plastic
6 coating from expanding and bursting, which also greatly increases the protection
7 against bursting and shattering.

8

9 If bursting occurs, the filled substance and the propellant can escape through
10 these pressure-compensating openings. Furthermore, due to the fact that the
11 contents of the glass container can escape, the risk that the filled substance will
12 chemically attack the coating material, e.g., by means of stress corrosion
13 cracking, is further reduced, which further reduces the risk of bursting.

14

15 By using an elastic plastic material having distinct shrinkage, it was found that
16 the ability of the small glass bottle coated by injection molding to be pressure-
17 loaded is higher than the ability of the pure glass bottle to be pressure-loaded, by
18 many times over. This effect makes a thinner wall thickness of the small glass
19 bottle possible. The elasticity of the plastic material thereby offsets the shrinkage.

20

21 The invention is based on a glass container of this type.

22

23 In the known case, specially designed small glass bottles, "glass inlets", are
24 coated with a transparent plastic using the conventional injection-molding
25 system. Since relatively viscous thermoplastics are typically used as plastic
26 material in the conventional injection-molding system, very high injection
27 pressures (approx. 300 bar) occur during injection molding, which can easily
28 destroy the glass inlet. This destruction results in a high percentage of waste.
29 Additionally, the productivity of a manufacturing system is greatly reduced. For
30 this reason, limits are also placed on the reduction of the wall thickness of the

1 glass inlets. The same applies for inlets made of a thermolabile plastic, especially
2 a thermoplastic material.

3

4 Moreover, the known glass containers comprising a coating applied by injection
5 molding cannot be sterilized by means of autoclaving using superheated steam
6 at 121° C for a period of 20 minutes. A sterilization method of this type is typically
7 required for containers used for medical purposes, however.

8

9 The invention is based on the object of developing the closeable glass container
10 of the type initially described, which comprises a plastic coating applied by
11 injection molding, and to carry out the method for its production in such a fashion
12 that, despite the thin walls of the glass container, it is possible to reduce the
13 waste produced during injection molding considerably, and the containers
14 comprising a coating applied by injection molding can be subjected to high
15 temperatures, e.g., during sterilization using superheated steam.

16

17 This object is successfully attained according to the invention with regard for the
18 closeable glass container by the fact that the plastic coating comprises at least
19 one reactively-vulcanizing plastic able to be heat-softened, and it is applied in the
20 process of injection molding using the reactive-injection molding technique.

21

22 With regard for the method for the production of this glass container having a
23 plastic coating applied by injection molding designed as small glass bottles, the
24 object is successfully attained according to the invention using the steps:

25

26 - Production of the entire small glass bottle having base section, cylindrical
27 jacket section, tapered neck section including sealing rim designed in the
28 shape of a bead, according to conventional glass technology,

1 - Coating of the entire small bottle by injection molding in a mold using at
2 least one reactively-vulcanizing plastic capable of being heat-softened,
3 using the reactive-injection molding system.

4

5 When the reactive-injection molding system (RIM system) is used according to
6 the invention, at least one reactively-vulcanizing plastic with low viscosity
7 compared to polymers, e.g., a thermosetting resin, is injected in a mold around
8 the insert—the glass container—at relatively low injection pressures (less than 10
9 bar) and relatively low mold temperatures.

10

11 Since only a low injection pressure is necessary, the thickness of the container
12 walls can be reduced, while reducing waste at the same time. Moreover, the
13 reactively-vulcanizing plastics used are able to be subjected to higher
14 temperatures than the thermoplastics typically used in the conventional injection
15 molding system, such as PP, PE, PET, PS, as a result of which the containers
16 comprising a coating applied by injection molding are capable of being sterilized
17 in autoclaves using superheated steam. The low mold temperatures also make it
18 fundamentally possible to use inlets made of a thermolabile plastic.

19

20 Particular advantages are achieved according to one embodiment of the
21 invention using a container developed as a small glass bottle that is capable of
22 being filled under pressure with a substance sprayable as aerosol and a
23 propellant, that comprises a tapered neck section having a sealing rim designed
24 in the shape of a bead integrally molded on the side where the opening is located
25 for the mechanical attachment of a delivery element, by means of which the
26 opening of the small glass container is closeable, and that is encased in the
27 plastic coating in such a fashion that the plastic coating also encases the sealing
28 rim designed in the shape of a bead. Small glass bottles of this type come onto
29 the market in various stages of development. In the basic form, the small glass
30 bottle is supplied without a delivery element installed. A commercial form having

1 a delivery element installed is also feasible. The small glass bottle can thereby
2 be filled or unfilled. All of these commercial forms use the small bottle according
3 to the invention, however, and are therefore included in the scope of protection.

4

5 By using the RIM method, the entire production process used to manufacture the
6 coated container—which is fillable under pressure with a substance sprayable as
7 aerosol and a propellant (“aerosol containers”—can be simplified as well. The
8 following possibilities result, for example:

9

10 By introducing different materials at different points in the mold, the material
11 hardness can be increased specifically in the region of the container head in
12 order to improve the quality of the crimping with a metering valve. The material
13 properties in the jacket of the container can be optimized in terms of “binding
14 splinters together”.

15

16 Using the RIM method, it is also possible to cover containers with a plastic
17 sheathing after they have been closed with a valve. This becomes possible
18 because the mold temperatures in the RIM method can be a great deal lower
19 than in the conventional injection-molding system and, within the framework of
20 the RIM system, the valve cannot be damaged by temperatures that are too high.
21 Additionally, the mechanical forces associated with injection are lower, which
22 also reduces the likelihood of valve damage.

23

24 Due to the lower mechanical load during coating, the use of the RIM method also
25 makes it possible to use thinner glass inlets with wall thicknesses in the range of
26 0.7 – 1 mm with plastic sheathing strengths in the range of 1 – 2 mm, so that
27 compressed-gas packages can be produced specifically for use in application
28 devices (injection pen systems, for example) using this method.

29

1 Coating can also be carried out more economically using the RIM method. On
2 the one hand, faster process times are possible, which increases throughput. On
3 the other hand, the molds are less expensive, which also results in an
4 economical production of small item counts.

5

6 It was determined, surprisingly, that the use of reactive polyurethane systems in
7 the RIM method eliminates the need to pretreat the outer surface of the glass
8 inlet to achieve optimal protection against splintering.

9

10 When using thermoplastics that are applied in the conventional injection molding
11 system, it must be ensured by means of separate process steps, for example,
12 that—as described in the cited publication DE 196 32 664 A1—the bond between
13 plastic and glass surface is very weak, so that, if the container breaks, cracks in
14 the glass inlet cannot spread into the plastic sheathing. When using reactive
15 polyurethane systems according to the RIM method, the splinter-binding effect is
16 independent of the load-bearing capacity of the bond between glass and plastic
17 sheathing, so that previously-named process steps can be eliminated.

18

19 Using the RIM method, components that may be mechanically and thermally
20 loaded only minimally can be coated by injection molding. This results in further
21 possibilities for the production of compressed-gas packages for application
22 systems.

23

24 Aerosol containers, a preferred application of the container according to the
25 invention, typically have the shape of a small glass bottle having a volume
26 between 5 ml and 125 ml.

27

28 Using the RIM method, it is also possible to coat glass containers having a
29 volume of more than 125 ml and up to 2000 ml.

1 As a result, these containers can fulfill TRG 300 requirements for compressed-
2 gas packages.

3

4 As a result of the measures according to the invention, it becomes possible to
5 produce containers in which fluids contained therein can be safely sterilized
6 using superheated steam (at 121° C or 134° C). Under these sterilization
7 conditions, high pressures are produced in the closed vessel that, alone, would
8 lead to the destruction of the vessel. Current glass laboratory bottles may
9 therefore not be closed tightly when undergoing such a sterilization process, so
10 that pressure compensation can take place. The plastic sheathing applied using
11 the RIM method makes it possible, however, to optimize the glass inlet in terms
12 of resistance to excess pressure and, in practical usage, it ensures safety if glass
13 breaks.

14

15 Moreover, thermolabile inlets (thermoplastics, for example) are able to be coated.

16

17 The reactive-injection molding method itself is known. It is described in the
18 following book, for instance:

19

20 "Saschiing, Hansjürgen. Kunststoff Taschenbuch,
21 *[Plastics Handbook]*
22 24th Ed., published by Carl Hanser Verlag, Munich, Vienna, 1989,
23 ISBN 3-446-15385-3"

24

25 Various method variants are known.

26

27 Polyurethane, polyamine, and polyurea systems, and thermosetting resins, are
28 known in particular as reactively-vulcanizing plastics. Reference is made to the
29 following book

30

1 "Domininghaus, Hans. Die Kunststoffe und ihre Eigenschaften,
2 [Plastics and Their Properties]
3 4th Ed., published by VDI-Verlag GmbH, Düsseldorf, 1992"

4
5 for details.

6
7 The glass containers covered by injection molding—glass inlets—described are
8 used preferably in the medical field. They can comprise various configurations.

9 For instance, Figure 1 shows a partial longitudinal view of a glass inlet that is
10 fillable with a medically effective substance sprayable as aerosol. A discharge
11 opening having a crimp rim 2 is formed on the container sheathing 1, to which a
12 metering valve can be attached. The base 3 bulges distinctly in the edge region
13 3a, having a flat center section 3b with a relatively small surface.

14
15 A plastic coating 4—which is shown in Figure 1 in an enlarged dimension and not
16 in entirety—is applied to the glass inlet according to the reactive-injection
17 molding system. The coating is applied in the base section 3 in such a fashion
18 that a flat standing surface is produced over the cross-section of the glass
19 container. In the upper section of the container, the coating extends to the rim of
20 the discharge opening, i.e., it includes the crimp rim 2. Due to the lower mold
21 temperatures in the reactive-injection molding method, however, the metering
22 valve can also be placed on the crimp rim 2 before the coating is applied.

23
24 Preferably, however, the glass inlets are provided with a base 3' that bulges
25 outward in entirety, as shown in Figure 2, because they can then withstand
26 higher internal pressures.

27
28 The following relationship preferably exists for the base radius R, the container
29 diameter D, and the dimension S of the outward bulge:

30

	min	max
S	1 mm	D/2
R	5 mm	D/2

1

2 Otherwise, the glass inlet according to Figure 2 is designed analogous in shape
3 to the glass inlet according to Figure 1. Identical reference numerals are used for
4 this reason.

5

6 Instead of a crimp rim, the glass inlets can also comprise a DIN glass thread GL
7 45 K for a screw-in stopper.

8

9 In addition to the medical field described, the glass containers can also be used
10 to store sprayable cosmetic products and to store/prepare beverages.

11

12 The method according to the invention is also suited, therefore, to coat glass
13 bottles for the production of carbonated mineral water when introducing CO₂ into
14 tap water. The required pressure-loadability is thereby 12 bar, which indicates a
15 TRG 300 test pressure of 18 bar. The volume of the bottles is typically 0.5 or 0.7
16 and 1.0 liter.

17

18

19

20

21

What is claimed is:

3 1. A closeable glass container comprising a plastic coating applied by
4 injection molding,
5 wherein the plastic coating (4) comprises at least one reactively-vulcanizing
6 plastic capable of being heat-softened and is applied in the process of injection
7 molding using the reactive-injection molding technique.
8

9 2. The container according to Claim 1, developed as a small glass bottle that
10 is fillable under pressure with a substance sprayable as an aerosol and a
11 propellant, that comprises a tapered neck section having a sealing rim (2)
12 designed in the shape of a bead integrally molded on the side where the opening
13 is located for the mechanical attachment of a delivery element, by means of
14 which the opening of the small glass bottle is closeable, and that is encased in
15 the plastic coating in such a fashion that it also encases the sealing rim designed
16 in the shape of a bead, or the previously-installed delivery element.
17

18 3. The container according to Claim 1 or 2,
19 wherein a plurality of pressure-compensating openings preferably designed in
20 the shape of holes is formed in the plastic coating applied by injection molding.
21

22 4. The container according to Claim 3,
23 wherein the pressure-compensating openings are formed in the sheathing of the
24 container coating, preferably close to the base region.
25

26 5. The container according to Claim 4,
27 wherein four pressure-compensating openings, situated in opposing pairs, are
28 formed.
29

30 6. The container according to one of the Claims 1 through 5,

1 wherein the plastic coating comprises a reactive polyurethane system.

2

3 7. The container according to one of the Claims 2 through 6,
4 wherein the wall thickness of the small glass bottle is in the range of 0.7 mm to 1
5 mm, and its volume is in the range of 5 ml to 125 ml.

6

7 8. The container according to one of the Claims 2 through 7,
8 wherein the thickness of the plastic coating is in the range of 1 mm to 2 mm.

9

10 9. The container according to one of the Claims 1 through 8,
11 wherein the thickness of the coating is different across the height of the
12 container.

13

14 10. The container according to one of the Claims 1 through 9,
15 wherein the plastic coating across the height of the container comprises different
16 reactively-vulcanizing plastics.

17

18 11. The container according to one of the Claims 1 through 10,
19 wherein the plastic coating is fiber-reinforced, at least in sections.

20

21 12. The container according to one of the Claims 1 through 11,
22 wherein the plastic coating comprises different reactively-vulcanizing plastics
23 across its cross-section, or it is applied in such a fashion that the integral density
24 varies across the cross-section, having the denser, solid layer as the outer
25 surface in each case.

26

27 13. The container according to one of the Claims 1, 6, 9, or 10 through 12,
28 wherein the container volume is in the range > 125 ml and ≤ 500 ml.

29

30 14. The container according to one of the Claims 1 through 13,

1 wherein the base (3) of the container bulges outward.

2

3 15. A method for the production of the container according to Claim 2 or one
4 of the following claims, comprising the procedure steps:

5 - Production of the entire small glass bottle having base section, cylindrical
6 jacket section, tapered neck section including sealing rim designed in the
7 shape of a bead, according to conventional glass technology,
8 - Injection molding of the entire small bottle in a mold using at least one
9 reactively-vulcanizing plastic capable of being heat-softened, using the
10 reactive-injection molding system.

11

12 16. The method according to Claim 15,
13 wherein a polyurethane system is used as the reactively-vulcanizing plastic.

14

15 17. The method according to Claim 15 or 16,
16 wherein different thermosetting resins are applied to different points and/or in
17 different strengths in the mold during the injection-molding procedure.

18

19 18. The method according to one of the Claims 15 through 17,
20 wherein the injection molding of the small bottle takes place in its unclosed state,
21 including the sealing rim.

22

23 19. The method according to one of the Claims 15 through 17,
24 wherein the injection molding of the small bottle takes place after a delivery
25 element has been placed on the sealing rim, including at least the mounting part
26 of the delivery element.

(12) NACH DEM VERTRAG ÜBER DIE INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT AUF DEM GEBIET DES
PATENTWESENS (PCT) VERÖFFENTLICHTE INTERNATIONALE ANMELDUNG

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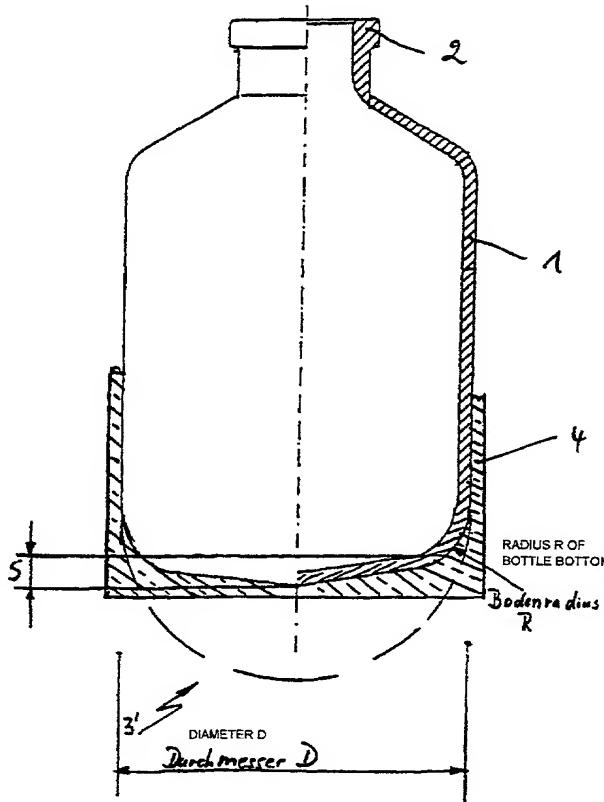
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[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

(54) Title: CLOSEABLE GLASS CONTAINER COMPRISING A PLASTIC COATING APPLIED BY INJECTION MOLDING AND METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION THEREOF

(54) Bezeichnung: VERSCHLIESBARER GLASBEHÄLTER MIT EINEM GESPRITZTEN KUNSTSTOFFÜBERZUG UND VERFAHREN ZU SEINER HERSTELLUNG



(57) Abstract: Such closeable containers are, for example, glass bottles having a tapered neck part. The container can be filled under pressure with a propellant and with a preferably medicinally active substance that can be sprayed as an aerosol, and the opening thereof can be closed by a dosing valve. In addition, the container comprises a plastic coating (4) which is applied around the same by injection molding and which serves to protect against shattering or splintering thus preventing injury to people when the container is damaged. In order to lower the rate of breakage while applying the coating by injection molding around the container and to permit an autoclaving at high temperatures, the plastic coating (4) is comprised of at least one reactively cross-linking plastic that can be thermally plasticized and is applied by means of injection molding according to reaction injection molding techniques.

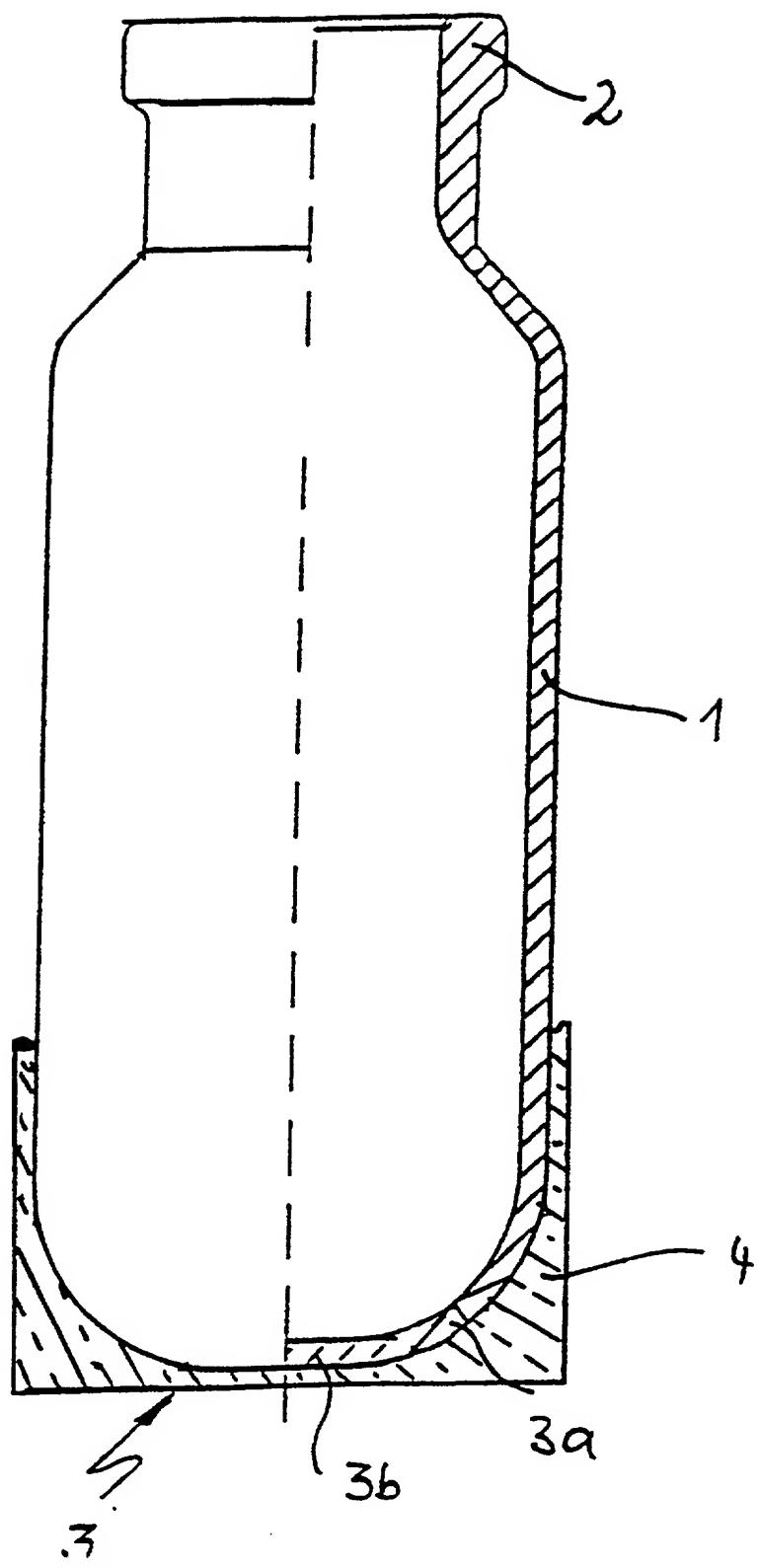
(57) Zusammenfassung: Derartige verschließbare Behälter sind beispielsweise Glasfläschchen mit einem verjüngtem Halsteil, das unter Druck mit einer als Aerosol versprühbaren, vorzugsweise medizinisch wirksamen Substanz und einem Treibmittel befüllbar ist und dessen Öffnung mit einem Dosierventil verschließbar ist, und das einen umspritzten Kunststoffüberzug (4) als Berst- und Splitterschutz aufweist, damit im Schadensfall Personen nicht verletzt werden. Zur Erniedrigung der Bruchrate beim Umspritzen des Behälters und zur Befähigung des Autoklavierens bei hohen Temperaturen besteht der Kunststoffüberzug (4) aus mindestens einem reaktiv vernetzenden, thermisch plastifizierbarem Kunststoff

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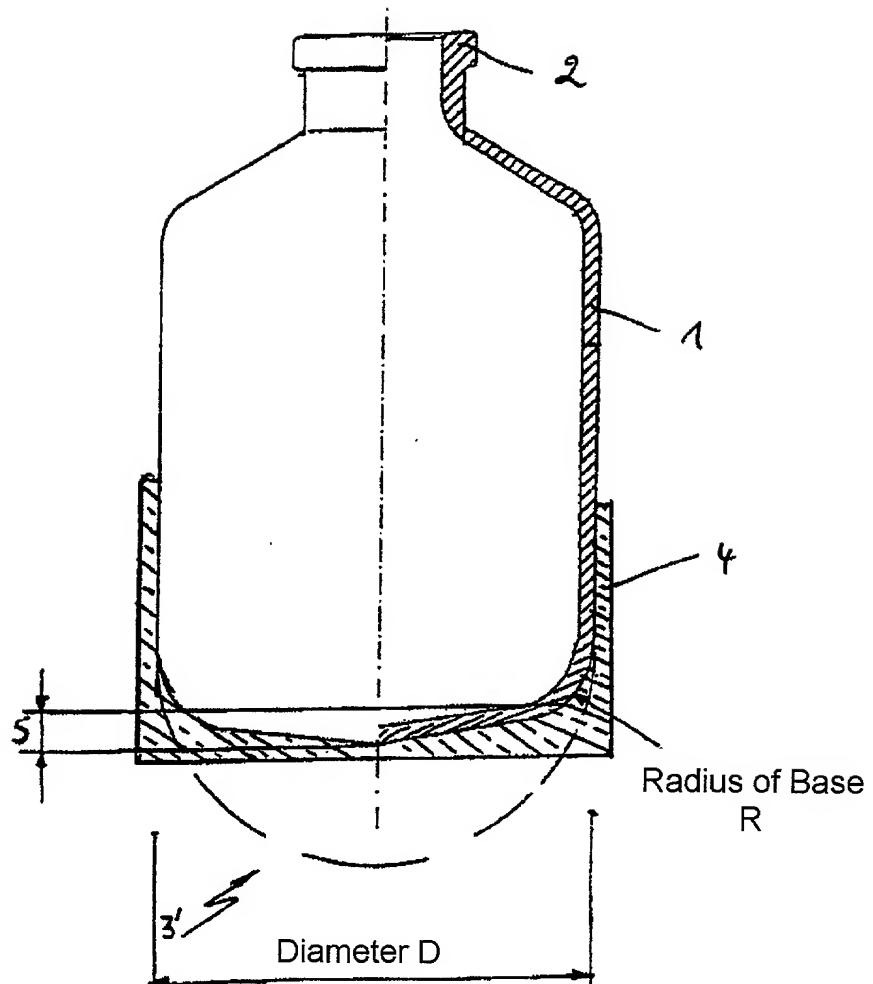
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FIG.1



2/2

FIG. 2



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT PATENT APPLICATION

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

Martin SOMMER
Artur FABIAN
Manfred BORENS
Jochen HEINZ

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **CLOSEABLE GLASS CONTAINER COMPRISING A PLASTIC COATING APPLIED BY INJECTION MOLDING AND METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION THEREOF** the specification of which was filed as PCT International Application number PCT/EP 00/08224 on August 23, 2000.

I hereby state that I believe the named inventor or inventors in this Declaration to be the original and first inventor or inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365 (b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior foreign application(s):

Priority claimed:

199 40 706.1 (Number)	GERMANY (Country)	AUGUST 27, 1999 (Date filed)	X Yes	— No
— (Number)	— (Country)	— (Date filed)	— Yes	— No

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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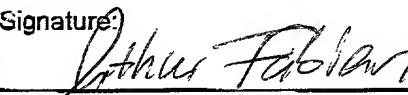
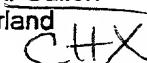
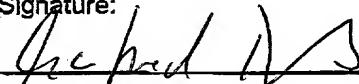
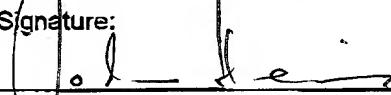
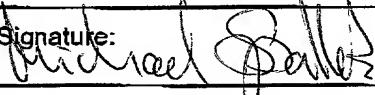
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements

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- made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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